

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-37 are pending in the above-identified application. Support for the change to claim 22 is found at page 38, lines 3-6 of the present specification.

Confirmation of Interview on October 7th with Examiner

Applicant's representative takes this opportunity to thank the Patent Examiner for granting an Interview on October 7, 2009 in connection with the above-identified application. The purpose of such an Interview would be to help Applicant's representative clarify his understanding of the Examiner's interpretation of the scope of the prior art, as well as to determine if any additional evidence can be presented in order to address the issues raised in the Final Office Action and subsequent Advisory Action of August 11, 2009.

Removal of Issue under 35 USC 112

Claim 22 was previously rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite because of the word "substantially". Consistent with the suggestion at page 2 of the Advisory Action of August 11, 2009, claim 22 has been amended to replace "substantially" with --essentially--. Thus, it is requested that this previous rejection not be maintained.

Issues under 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-37 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hebrink '182 (US Publication No. 2001/0019182) taken in view of evidence given by Arends '659 (US Patent 5,360,659) in view of Weber '897 (US Patent 6,025,897).

The above rejection should not be maintained based on the following reasons.

Present Invention and Its Advantages

The present invention is directed to a multilayer film formed from alternate thermoplastic layers A and B, wherein these layers have the same basic skeleton. As recited in amended claim 1, the multilayer film is manufactured by using a feedblock which separately includes at least two or more members having a number of microscope slits. In this regard, note that the

feedblock arrangement for Example 1 as described at pages 85-88 of the present specification results in multilayer film having 201 layers.

As described at page 55, line 17 to page 56, line 1 of the present specification, the employment of such a feedblock to manufacture the multilayer film of the present invention provides for advantageously reduced amounts of foreign substances resulting from deterioration due to heat, high precision layering even if the number of layers is large, and improved layering precision in the width direction. This film exhibits a reflectance peak before and after heating at 150°C for 30 minutes which differs by no greater than 15%. Also, the difference in reflectance between peaks of reflection in different locations in the width direction is within $\pm 10\%$. The film of the present invention exhibits advantageous properties. As evidenced by the examples and the comparative test results shown in Tables 1-7 in the present specification, the film embodiments of the present invention (Examples 1-23) exhibit advantageously improved reflectance, dimensional evenness, scratch resistance and resistance to layer separation properties over Comparative Examples 1-6 which do not include the inventive features.

Distinctions over Cited References

Hebrink '182 discloses methods and apparatuses for making multilayer optical films. Hebrink '182 mentions in paragraphs [0138] and [0145] some processing conditions which affect reflectance properties. Hebrink '182 discloses a desire to obtain thickness uniformity in a widthwise direction at paragraph [0077], but fails to specifically identify a method to do so. Hebrink '182 also mentions some examples of thermoplastic layers in paragraphs [0057] and [0058] with reference to uniaxially oriented films. Hebrink '182 discloses in paragraph [0005] that the combination of a feedblock with one or more multipliers results in film that do not have satisfactory uniformity of reflectivity properties. Instead, Hebrink '182 employs the feedblocks described at paragraphs [0022], [0026] and [0071]-[0076] and as shown in Figure 1-3. Note also, that Hebrink '182 distinguishes a "feedblock" 104 from a multiplier 106 as shown in Figure 1 and discussed in paragraph [0022]. Hebrink '182 depicts a feedblock in Figure 3 which does not include two or more members having a number of microscopic slits. Therefore, the feedblock of

Hebrink '182 produces an initial polymer product having only two layers which must be cut and stacked by using a multiplier to obtain the final product having multiple layers.

Hebrink '182 fails to disclose the use of a feedback corresponding to that of the present invention in order to manufacture the described multilayer film. Hebrink '182 fails to disclose or suggest a multilayer film that exhibits a reflectance peak before and after heating at 150°C for 30 minutes which differs by no greater than 15%, as in the present invention. Hebrink '182 further fails to disclose or suggest a difference in reflectance between peaks of reflection in different locations in the width direction that is within $\pm 10\%$, as in the present invention. Further, the uniaxially oriented thermoplastic films mentioned in Hebrink '182 must shrink in the oriented direction upon application of heat, such that it is not possible to satisfy the requirement that a reflectance peak differ by no greater than 15% after heating, as in the present invention. Consequently, significant patentable distinctions exist between the present invention and Hebrink '182, such that the above rejections based on this reference must not be maintained.

In addition, it is submitted that both Arends '659 and Weber '897 fail to make up for the deficiencies of Hebrink '182, such that even an attempt to combine these references together fails to disclose or suggest the features of the claimed film of the present invention. Thus, the rejection based on Weber '897 and Hebrink '182 must also not be maintained.


Although the Advisory Action of August 11th attempts to equate multipliers and feedbacks, it is respectfully submitted that Hebrink '182 recognizes these perform different functions such that these components cannot be equated.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, Andrew D. Meikle, at the telephone number below, in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Andrew D. Meikle
Registration No.: 32,868
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant